

From: Elizabeth Carriere [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, December 5, 2025 3:08 PM
To: Islands2050
Cc: Kate-Louise Stamford
Subject: Input into the Island Trust Policy Statement Draft

Hello,

I am a resident of Gambier Island, and follow and participate in community issues here on the Island. I have read the TPS, filled out the Survey, attended the Gambier Island Community Engagement event on November 25, and am in dialogue with other Islanders about present and future issues on the Island and in related communities.

Today I posted the following on the Gambier Island Facebook page as comments to Trustee Kate-Louise Stamford's (copied, thank you Kate-Louise!) very helpful posting urging people to get involved and comment on the draft TPS.

I hope these comments below are useful in the Trust's deliberations on the TPS.

Best wishes

Elizabeth

I live and work on Chá7elkwnech in the territory of the Skwxwú7mesh Ûxwumixw

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I strongly urge Gambier Islanders to listen to these recorded proceedings of the November 25 Gambier Island Community Information Meeting on the Islands Trust draft Policy Statement - YouTube](<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=919rBIIR2CY>), and also to read the draft policy statement (TPS) and answer the online survey (accessible on the Island Trust's 2050 Project website islands2050@islandstrust.bc.ca). You Can fill out the TPS survey before February 2, 2026. However, please note my comments on the survey design at the end of this post.

While some may regard policy documents of little consequence, something that "sits on the shelf", I would say this one has particular relevance for Gambier Island residents. It comes at a time of controversy over land use, housing, as well as potential changes in the governance for Island Trust and other governance decision-making on the islands,

As we were informed at the meeting, this policy has been long in the making. The existing policy was enacted in 1993 – that's 32 years ago. According to the Council Chair waiting that long to revise the policy, especially with the dramatic changes that have taken place over that time, is "not necessarily good practice". Further, the process of redrafting has already taken 6 years (the decision to update the policy was made in 2019). We were informed that the process of public engagement has entered its final phase, as the Council hopes to finalize the policy in February 2026.

As you will hear if you listen to the recording of the Gambier Island Community meeting, there are some serious public concerns around possible changes to the Island Trust mandate, guiding principles and policy priorities (are they balanced between homeowners rights and Reconciliation ?), directive policies (e.g. do they fetter local Trust discretion and decision-making?), wording (eg. what is meant by terms such as "restoration", "balance", " Crown Land", etc). Some good clarification was provided by staff, and it was heartening to hear Trustee Bernardo validating the expression of those concerns by Islanders, and indicating the need for Council to consider these deeply, especially in the light of new legal frameworks, such as those suggested by the recent Cowichan Court Decision. It was good to know the Council is still open to suggestions from the public for changes to the TPS.

Another matter brought up by Trustee Stamford but not discussed was that community engagement is still open on the redrafting of the OCP (Official Community Plan) affecting Gambier Island. It would be good to know how the Island Trust Policy Statement (TPS) interfaces with redrafting this OCP, since we were informed that OCPs are “subservient” to Island Trust Policy.

At the beginning of the recording, you will hear Island Trust staff refer to the Island Trust as a “special type of government for a special place”. These are times of significant governance change, especially at the provincial and sub-provincial level. This policy framework, and the framework that will form the basis of the OCP affecting Gambier Island, are key elements of how we are governed, who has a say in that governance structure and Bylaw changes, and what kinds of decisions will be made on our behalf by the Islands Trust, but also by other relevant governing bodies, such as SCRD.

This current and other methods of community engagement on the TPS are important opportunities for Gambier Islanders to understand the changes being suggested, and have their say in ensuring that their views are heard and their interests are served by the new policies and community plans. Please, do go online be informed, and be sure your voice is heard.

Addendum: I have filled out the survey, but must report a frustration with the survey design, which I feel might not be the right instrument to truly gauge respondents' views on the actual substance of the TPS. This is because the survey presents components of the TPS (eg principles, priorities, goals etc) in their entirety without separating out (disaggregating) individual policy statements, then it only asks respondents to rate their agreement or disagreement with whether these groupings of policy statements “*will be effective in helping Islands Trust achieve*” whatever the subheading is (eg. Goal, etc). I cannot see how this allows respondents to share their agreement or disagreement with specific policy statements. To agree (or disagree) on the (supposed? guessed at?) effectiveness of batches of policy statements surely cannot be a measure of agreement with the content of the individual statements themselves? Fortunately, in addition to inviting people to fill out the survey, Island Trust is also asking for specific comments on the draft TPS on their 2050 Project website islands2050@islandstrust.bc.ca. I will of course submit my comments, as I am concerned that the aggregated survey results may be misleading at best, and at worst may not reflect respondents' opinions about the actual content of the draft policy.

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